

Home Care Quality Authority – Facts

*The Home Care Quality Authority (HCQA) creates **real savings** while providing quality services, employment opportunities and **viable solutions** that help keep our citizens safe. Significant near and long term cost savings will be gained as evidenced by:*

- The Referral Registry, operated by HCQA, saves over \$6 million dollars per year as an alternative to more expensive long term care options.
- The potential savings to the State's long term care budget is more than three times the entire HCQA Budget.
- Since January 2007, consumers have used the Referral Registry to hire an individual provider over 4,500 times.
- The Referral Registry provides real and verifiable employment opportunities for our citizens. In FY 08 and FY09, over 3,000 workers found employment through the Referral Registry. This reflects a consumer hiring trend that has been increasing year to year by over 30%.
- Individual providers are less expensive to the State than agency workers. The cost to the state for individual providers that are hired through the HCQA Referral Registries is \$5.00 per hour less than it costs for identical services provided by home care agencies.
- The number of labor-ready providers enrolled on the Referral Registry has increased three-fold since January 2007.
- In many rural areas of Washington State, loss of the Referral Registry will leave consumers with little or no in-home care options.
- Without the Referral Registry many consumers will face more expensive nursing home care, at an average of \$170.00 per day, as their only alternative if the Referral Registry is eliminated.
- The Referral Registry serves many consumers with complex behaviors and high care need and the Referral Registry is often the only place left for them to find home care providers.

Continued:

Home Care Quality Authority – Facts, continued

- To date, more than 25,000 worker applications have been screened for the Registry.
- The Referral Registry is a safe way for vulnerable adults and their families to find screened and qualified individual providers. Otherwise, they may have to rely on newspaper ads, grocery store bulletin boards, or other means to find a home care worker, putting them at risk of exploitation and abuse.
- In order to provide only the most suitable individual providers for consumers using the Referral Registry, all potential individual providers are screened and must complete an annual background check. To date, over 23,000 background checks have been processed for the Referral Registry.

Agency Background:

- The Home Care Quality Authority was established by citizen initiative in 2001, to improve the quality of in-home care services offered by individual providers.
- The Agency is governed by a nine member Board; with the majority consisting of consumers of in-home care services. These Board members provide an independent voice for consumers, give direction to staff and are consistently united in their advocacy for consumer choice. And, as intended, the Board provides a meaningful opportunity for people with disabilities of all ages to contribute to the development of our State's evolving long term care system.
- Operating the Home Care Referral Registry is one of the principal responsibilities of HCQA. As a distinctive state agency, HCQA is very focused on success of the Registry and its responsiveness to consumers and their needs. Because of its small size, HCQA has the ability to maintain flexibility in a dynamic business environment where problems are corrected swiftly, programs maintain high levels of adaptability and quality is assured.
- HCQA develops quality educational materials that support vulnerable adults and their families on issues such as how to hire an individual provider and other important safety issues. Their publications and videos are widely requested by consumers, long term care professionals and disability rights organizations.

Please reconsider your proposal to close the Home Care Quality Authority.